

Alternatives to Abortion Services Fact Sheet

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Alternatives to Abortion Program:

What is this program: The Alternatives to Abortion Program is established for the purpose of funding alternatives to abortion services for pregnant women who enroll in the program prior to the 28th week of pregnancy. It consists of services or counseling offered to a pregnant woman and continuing for one year thereafter, to assist her in carrying her pregnancy to term instead of having an abortion and to assist her in caring for her dependent child or placing her child for adoption.

Eligibility: Women at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

Services including but not limited to the following:

- prenatal care;
- medical and mental health care;
- parenting skills;
- drug and alcohol testing and treatment;
- child care;
- newborn or infant care;
- housing;
- utilities;
- educational services;
- food;
- clothing and supplies related to pregnancy;
- adoption assistance;
- job training and placement;
- establishing and promoting responsible paternity;
- medically necessary ultrasound services;
- case management;
- domestic abuse protection; and
- transportation

Services are dependent on client need and not otherwise prioritized by the department. Such services shall only be available during pregnancy and continuing for one year thereafter, and shall exclude any family planning services. None of these funds shall be expended to perform or induce, assisting the performing or inducing of, or refer for, abortions.

Providers: A list of providers will be given to you by your abortion provider and is available at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/AlternativesToAbortion/Providers>.

Other Pregnancy Assistance Information:

There are other programs and services available to pregnant women and mothers of newborn children offered by public or private agencies which assist a woman in carrying her pregnancy to

term and assist her in caring for her dependent child, placing her child for adoption, including but not limited to: prenatal care; maternal health care; newborn or infant care; mental health services; housing programs; utility assistance; transportation services; food, clothing, and supplies related to pregnancy; parenting skills; educational programs; job training and placement services; drug and alcohol testing and treatment; and adoption assistance. These agencies are commonly referred to as pregnancy resource centers, crisis pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and adoption agencies. Lists of these providers will be given to you by your abortion provider and are available at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/AlternativesToAbortion/SB793/UltrasoundProviders.pdf> (for ultrasound providers) and <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/AlternativesToAbortion/SB793/PregnancyAssistanceInformation.pdf> (for other service providers).

“There are public and private agencies willing and able to help you carry your child to term, and to assist you and your child after your child is born, whether you choose to keep your child or place him or her for adoption. The state of Missouri encourages you to contact those agencies before making a final decision about abortion. State law requires that your physician or a qualified professional give you the opportunity to call agencies like these before you undergo an abortion.” RSMo 188.027 1(6) (d)